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Message Text

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PAGE 01 LISBON 02084 112031Z

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ISO-00 PM-03 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00

INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SAJ-01 /060 W
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R 111417Z APR 75
FM AMEMBASSY LISBON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2459
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES
AMCONSUL LUANDA
AMEMBASSY MADRID
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION NATO
DIA WASHDC
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER
AMCONSUL OPORTO
AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA

C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 2084

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, PO
SUBJ: CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS' ELECTION ATTITUDE

SUMMARY: ALTHOUGH SUSPENDED FROM ELECTION CAMPAIGN, CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS (PDC) HAVE NOT CLOSED UP SHOP. PARTY EXPECTS TO RESUME POLITICAL ACTIVITY AFTER ELECTIONS AND WILL URGE ITS SUPPORTERS TO VOTE ON APRIL 25 FOR DEMOCRATIC PARTIES. END SUMMARY.

1. SUSPENDED FROM ELECTION CAMPAIGN, PDC HAS NOT FOLDED. PARTY HAS MOVED LISBON HEADQUARTERS INTO MORE SPACIOUS, RENT-FREE BUILDING PROVIDING GREATER SECURITY THAN OLD QUARTERS WHICH WERE SACKED ON NIGHT OF MARCH 11. PDC DIRECTORATE HAS DECIDED TO RESUME OPEN POLITICAL ACTIVITY AFTER APRIL 25 ELECTIONS, WHEN SUSPENSION ORDER ENDS. STILL TO BE RESOLVED QUESTION OF PARTY'S LEADERSHIP MAY REQUIRE NEW PARTY CONGRESS; FOR THE PRESENT, PDC IS MAINTAINING DISCREET SILENCE ON MISSING SECRETARY GENERAL, CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 LISBON 02084 112031Z

MAJOR SANCHES OSORIO.

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2. PDC PLANS TO RESUME PUBLICATION OF ITS NEWSPAPER, "PRESENCA DEMOCRATICA," SHORTLY BEFORE ELECTION. PUBLICATION'S INTERRUPTION WAS PARTY'S OWN CHOICE, BEING AN ACT OF DISCRETION NOT ENCOMPASSED IN GOVERNMENT'S SUSPENSION ORDER. (ARMED FORCES MOVEMENT AUTHORITIES FORMALLY NOTIFIED PDC THAT IT COULD CONTINUE TO PUBLISH PAPER.) PDC OFFICIALS HAVE TOLD EMBOFF THAT PARTY'S FINANCES, WHILE NOT BOUNTIFUL, ARE NEVERTHELESS SUFFICIENT TO COVER COSTS OF SEVERAL ISSUES.

3. IN CONVERSTION WITH EMBOFF, PDC ACTING SECY. GENERAL COSTA FIGUEIRA SAID THAT PARTY IS STRONGLY ENCOURAGING ITS MEMBERS TO VOTE ON APRIL 25. MOST WILL PROBABLY VOTE FOR FORMER CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC COALITION PARTNER, CDS. COSTA FIGUEIRA ADDED, HOWEVER, THAT SOME PDC MILITANTS ARE HIGHLY DISAPPOINTED IN CDS'S FAILURE TO DEFEND PDC FROM ACCUSATIONS LEVELED AGAINST IT OF COMPLICITY IN MARCH 11 COUP. SOME OF THESE VOTES MAY GO TO CENTER LEFT PPD, BUT LIKELIER BENEFICIARY IS PS. COSTA FIGUEIRA AND OTHER PDC LEADERS HAVE TAKEN NOTE OF SOCIALIST SECY. GENERAL SOARES' RECENT INCLUSION BY NAME OF PDC IN REFERENCES TO "DEMOCRATIC" PARTIES.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLICIES, POLITICAL PARTIES, ELECTION CAMPAIGNS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 11 APR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: buchantr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975LISBON02084
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750128-0103
From: LISBON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750459/aaaaccga.tel
Line Count: 83
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: buchantr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 20 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <20 MAY 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <01 OCT 2003 by buchantr>
Review Markings:

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US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS' ELECTION ATTITUDE SUMMARY: ALTHOUGH SUSPENDED FROM ELECTION CAMPAIGN, CHRISTIAN
TAGS: PINT, PO, CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006